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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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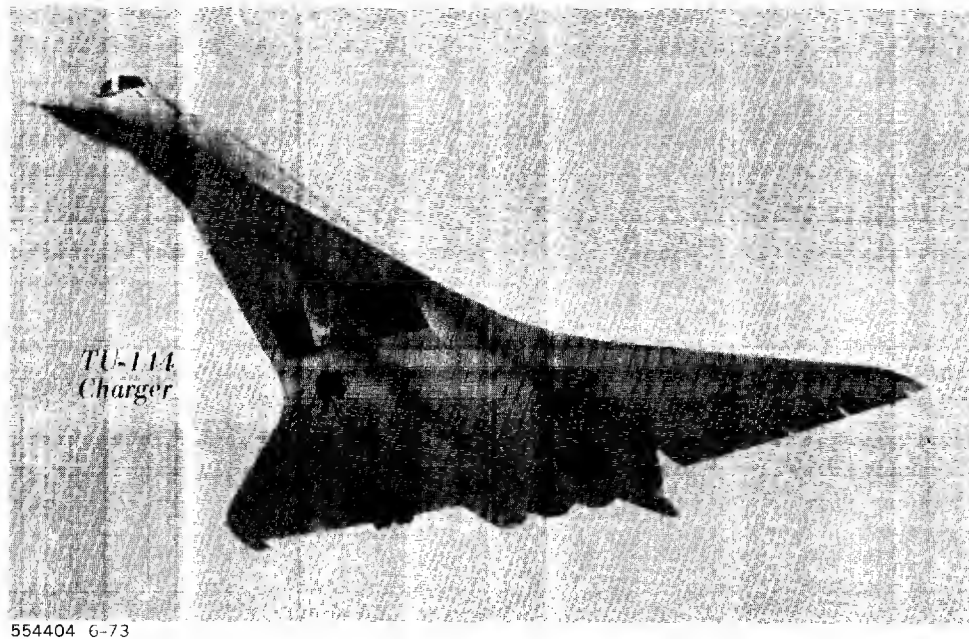
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USSR: The crash yesterday of the Soviet TU-144 Charger during a demonstration flight at the Paris Air Show will prove embarrassing to the Soviets in their competition with the British/French combine for leadership in the supersonic transport field.

According to press reports, the cause of the crash is unknown; the supersonic aircraft flew over the field and began a steep climb before nosing over and exploding in the air. All crew members apparently were killed. The aircraft was a larger modified version of the prototype first shown in Paris in 1971.

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Westerners who have had the opportunity to inspect the TU-144 have reported shoddy workmanship and outmoded avionics, particularly in the inertial navigation system.

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The TU-144 was designed by the late Andrei Tupolev and is produced at the Voronezh Airframe Plant.

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The TU-144 was promised for commercial service in 1975.

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Laos: The Laos Communist Party's Central Committee on 1 June released an unusually detailed statement on the status of the negotiations in Vientiane. The Communists outlined their position on almost every issue and went to great length to substantiate their claim that the Royal Lao Government and the US are to blame for the continued impasse. [REDACTED]

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Iran: The two unidentified assailants who killed an American military adviser in Tehran on 2 June reportedly are still at large. The government has mounted a massive hunt for the gunmen, thought to be leftist terrorists, and has provided extra security units to guard American installations. [REDACTED]

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Greece: The army and air force alert has been substantially reduced. The police and gendarmerie have resumed near normal activity since mid-day Saturday. [REDACTED]

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**These items are prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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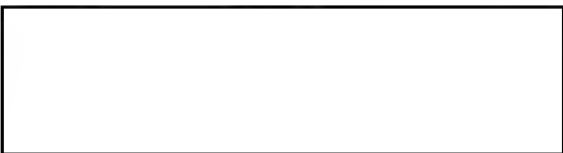
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